

INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Date Sent: 29 MAR 61
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FROM: Ambassador DCM

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- Reference: 1) Athens to Dept G-522, info Berlin G-4, Bonn G-3, Tel Aviv G-3
2) Dept to Athens G-45, info Bonn G-259

Concerning story of alleged implication State Secretary Globke in ultimate responsibility for World War II death of 20,000 Jews from Northern Greece, certain German newspapers and magazines, notably "Hamburger Echo" and "Spiegel," as early as September 1960, published allegation by Berlin lawyer Lerten that Globke in a telephone conversation with Lerten threatened severe charges allegedly arranged with Eichmann in 1944 send 20,000 Jews from Northern Greece to Palestine to save them from destruction. German newspapers also reported that as result of Lerten allegation, Globke and Chancellor Adenauer, the latter in his capacity as Globke's superior, preferred charges for libel "against persons unknown" before Bonn District Attorney to have Lerten allegation disproved. Investigatory proceedings in this suit are now pending. Lerten was reported in January 1961 to have submitted testimony in support his allegation covering several pages. Eichmann is reported to have refused when questioned in connection with these proceedings to make statements regarding Lerten charges possibly in order not to prejudice defense his forthcoming trial. Likewise, Frankfurt Chief Public Prosecutor Lauer who is investigating deportations of Jews from Nazi-occupied territories during war, opened proceedings in January 1961 against Globke under Lerten story. These proceedings have in the meantime been transferred to Bonn. Globke has publicly denied Lerten charge.

In light fact that Lerten accusation and its connection Eichmann trial, as well as Globke's denial charge, have been fully reported German press, Embassy considers there is no need for Embassy Athens inform Greek Government which very likely is aware of story through press reports its own Embassy Bonn. Embassy therefore wishes advise against taking action such as suggested last paragraph reference 1.

FOLEs

Albrom

Jvonelbo/rcc

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